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Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Thailand:* draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008, 66/185 of 22 December 2011, 67/196 of 21 December 2012, 68/199 of 20 December 2013, 69/205 of 19 December 2014 and 70/187 of 22 December 2015,

Recalling also its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

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implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recognizing that international trade is an engine for economic growth and poverty reduction and contributes to the promotion of sustainable development, and is recognized as one of the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recognizing also that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development remain a challenge for the entire international community in the twenty-first century, in particular in developing countries, and that gains from globalization, while reducing extreme poverty by half, have been unevenly distributed, giving rise to extreme global inequality over the past 30 years,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1] and the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Stresses* the importance of revitalizing and reinvigorating the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development to facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of the implementation of all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors in their respective roles and responsibilities and mobilizing all available resources;

3. *Reaffirms* the commitments made through the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development[4] in, inter alia, international trade, as an important action area for sustainable development;

4. *Also reaffirms* the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, equitable and inclusive multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful and gradual trade liberalization with appropriate supporting policies, could play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development, especially at a time when world exports of goods and services show sluggish, if not negative, growth;

5. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial

[1] A/71/15 (Parts I-IV).
[2] A/71/275.
[3] Resolution 70/1.
[4] Resolution 69/313, annex.

Declaration,[5] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the Bali Ministerial Declaration and the set of ministerial decisions, understandings and declarations known as the "Bali package" of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 6 December 2013, and calls upon Member States to fully implement all decisions therein in a timely manner, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the decision on public stockholding for food security purposes and the commitment stated in the Bali Ministerial Declaration to prepare a work programme on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Agenda;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating accession to the World Trade Organization and that the accession process should be accelerated without political impediment and in an expeditious and transparent manner for developing countries, according to their development levels and priorities, including by fully implementing the decision on the guidelines for accession of the least developed countries adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 25 July 2012 and by providing technical assistance prior to, during and in the follow-up to the accession process, in full compliance with the rules of the World Trade Organization, which would contribute to the rapid and full integration of developing countries into the multilateral trading system;

8. *Also emphasizes* the need to combat protectionism in all its forms and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations, in line with the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and emphasizes that the work of the World Trade Organization shall maintain development at its centre, with provisions for special and differential treatment remaining integral;

9. *Expresses concern* about the adoption of unilateral actions that are not consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

10. *Recalls* the convening of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015, and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Kenya for hosting the meeting;

11. *Welcomes* the ministerial decisions on agriculture, cotton and issues related to least developed countries adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;

12. *Commits* to working together with all members of the World Trade Organization with a sense of urgency and solidarity and with a view to achieving

[5] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

positive outcomes at the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization and beyond, and commits to further working to strengthen the World Trade Organization;

13. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions and extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial, humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme and not to impose them in the future, and that meaningful market access improvement will also require addressing non-tariff measures where they may act as unnecessary trade barriers;

14. *Recognizes* the importance of sound and robust national competition and consumer protection laws and policies and international cooperation, information exchange and capacity-building in the areas of competition policy and legislation in order to enhance the international competitiveness of developing countries;

15. *Also recognizes* the role of services, in particular infrastructure services, in diversification and structural transformation, and the importance of supporting developing countries in the establishment of policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks that contribute to infrastructure development;

16. *Further recognizes* that international trade and investment offers opportunities but also requires complementary actions at the national level, commits to strengthening domestic enabling environments and implementing sound domestic polices and reforms conducive to realizing the potential of trade for inclusive growth and sustainable development, and recognizes the need for value addition by developing countries and for further integration of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises into value chains;

17. *Recalls* the convening of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Kenya from 17 to 22 July 2016;

18. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;[6]

19. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development and in contributing to supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in accordance with the outcome adopted at the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular its paragraphs 10, 12 and 14;[7]

20. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system, trends in international trade and persistent and emerging development challenges to trade from a sustainable development perspective;

21. *Recognizes* the particular challenges faced by small, vulnerable economies to fully benefit from the multilateral trading system, as embodied by the World Trade Organization, in a manner commensurate with their special

[6] TD/519 and Add.1 and 2.
[7] See TD/519/Add.2.

circumstances, and in this regard encourages progress in the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, as mandated in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which support their efforts towards sustainable development, and in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway";[5]

22. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the further implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on developments in the international trading system, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International trade and development" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.